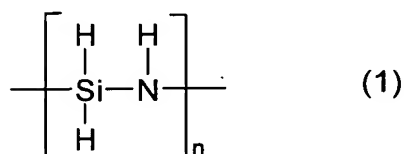


Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A coating for ~~surfaces~~ a surface, comprising 10-20% by weight of perhydropolysilazane of the formula 1



where n is an integer and is such that the perhydropolysilazane has a number-average molecular weight of from 150 to 150 000 g/mol, a solvent and a catalyst and, ~~if desired~~ optionally, one or more cobinders, ~~and the cured coating, when cured,~~ has a thickness of from 2 to 20 micrometers.

2. (Currently Amended) The coating as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein at least one cobinder~~ the one or more cobinders is an organopolysilazane of the formula 2



where R', R'' and R''' ~~can be~~ are identical or different and are each either hydrogen or unsubstituted or substituted organic radicals, with the proviso that R', R'' and R''' ~~must not simultaneously~~ can not all be hydrogen, and where n is such that the organopolysilazane has a number-average molecular weight of from 150 to 150 000 g/mol, with the proviso that the mass fraction of the organopolysilazane, based on the perhydropolysilazane, is at least 1% and not more than 100%, ~~preferably 10% to 70%, more preferably 15% to 50%.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The coating as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein~~ or 2, ~~wherein said coating comprises a cobinder such as is customarily used for~~

~~producing coating materials, with the proviso that the mass fraction of the~~
~~cobinder~~one or more cobinders, based on the perhydropolysilazane, is at least 1%
and not more than 100%, ~~preferably 10% to 70%, more preferably 20% to 50%.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The coating as claimed in claim 3, wherein the ~~cobinder~~
one or more cobinders is a cellulose derivative, a polyester, ~~a~~ or-modified polyester,
a phenolic resin, ~~a~~ or-melamine resin, an acrylate, epoxide or polyisocyanate.

5. (Currently Amended) The coating as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding~~
~~claims, wherein said coating contains~~ claim 1, further comprising 0.001% to 5% by
weight of a catalyst.

6. (Currently Amended) The coating as claimed in claim ~~6~~ 5, wherein the
catalyst is an N-heterocyclic compound, a mono-, di- or trialkylamine, an organic or
inorganic acid, a peroxide, a metal carboxylate, an acetylacetonate complex, ~~or~~
metal powder or an organometallic compound.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting a substrate having a surface
comprising the step of applying a coating as claimed in claim 1 to the surface and
curing the coating to the surface~~The use of a coating as claimed in at least one of~~
~~claims 1 to 7 as a protective coating for surfaces.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~use method~~ as claimed in claim 8 7, wherein the
~~surfaces are~~surface is a metal or polymer ~~surfaces~~surface.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~use method~~ as claimed in claim 8 ~~or 9~~ 7, wherein
the ~~cured coating, when cured~~, has a thickness of from 3 to 10 micrometers.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~use method~~ as claimed in at least one of claims 8
~~to 10~~ 7, wherein the ~~protective coating is on~~substrate is a wheel rimsrim, especially
aluminum rims.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a protective coating on metal or plastic ~~surfaces~~ surface, wherein the surface ~~which may have already been coated, which comprises~~ comprising the steps of applying a coating as claimed in claim ~~at least one of claims 1 to 7~~ 1 to the surface and then curing it ~~the coating~~ at a temperature of from 10 to 200°C, preferably at 25 to 160°C, more preferably at 80 to 150°C.

12. (New) The coating as claimed in claim 2, wherein the mass fraction of the organopolysilazane, based on the perhydropolysilazane, is 10% to 70%.

13. (New) The coating as claimed in claim 2, wherein the mass fraction of the organopolysilazane, based on the perhydropolysilazane, is 15% to 50%.

14. (New) The coating as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mass fraction of the one or more cobinders, based on the perhydropolysilazane, is 10% to 70%.

15. (New) The coating as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mass fraction of the one or more cobinders, based on the perhydropolysilazane, is 20% to 50%.

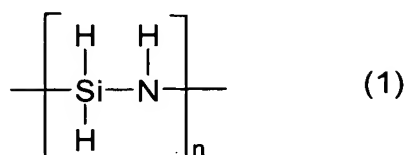
16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the wheel rim is an aluminum rim.

17. (New) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the curing step occurs at a temperature between 25 to 160°C.

18. (New) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the curing step occurs at a temperature between 80 to 150°C.

19. (New) A metal or plastic surface having a protective coating thereon according to claim 11.

20. (New) A coating for a surface, comprising at least one perhydropolysilazane of the formula 1



where n is an integer and is such that the perhydropolysilazane has a number-average molecular weight of from 150 to 150 000 g/mol, a solvent and a catalyst and, optionally, one or more cobinders, and the coating, when cured, has a thickness of from 2 to 20 micrometers.

21. (New) The coating as claimed in claim 20, wherein the coating, when cured, has a thickness of 2 to 20 micrometers.
22. (New) The coating as claimed in claim 20, wherein the coating, when cured, has a thickness of 3 to 10 micrometers.
23. (New) A surface coated with the coating according to claim 20, wherein the surface is a metal or plastic.
24. (New) The surface as claimed in claim 23, wherein the surface is the surface of a wheel rim.
25. (New) A wheel rim having a surface coated with the coating of claim 20.
26. (New) A wheel rim having a surface coated with the coating of claim 1.

27. (New) The wheel rim as claimed in claim 25, wherein the wheel rim is an aluminum wheel rim.

28. (New) The wheel rim as claimed in claim 26, wherein the wheel rim is an aluminum wheel rim.